The two subsidiary companies, Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited have inherent problems like difficult geo-mining conditions under which they operate and the continued problems of inadequate and erratic power supply, law and order, absenteeism delay in opening new projects due to obstruction by local youths demanding employment and non-availability of land.

The various measures being adopted to increase production and improve productivity in the companies include considerable investment in new mines, fuller utilisation of mining capacity already created, more efficient use and better maintenance of equipment, stricter control of inventory and economy in the use of stores, better use of manpower by controlling absenteeism and enforcing discipline and identification of surplus workers and their re-deployment after suitable training, better availability of scarce inputs like explosives, timber etc., reduction of pit-head stocks by faster movement and more systematic distribution, expeditions and timely completion of new projects and improvement in law and order situation. For easy ushering in of new technology, collaborations are sought with expert countries which include supply of initial sets of equipment and training of the Indian Engineers and workers both within the country and abroad.

The Government have also appointed two Committees to go into the working of Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited and suggest measures for improving performance of these companies.

Production of coal

1503. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of coal during the last three years;

(b) whether the production of coal during these years was below or above the target;

(c) if so, what are the figures; and

(d) the price of coal during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The target and actual production of coal in the country during the last three years are as under:

(Figures in million tonnes)

Year	Target	Actual production
1982-83	133.00	130.50
1983-84	142.00	138.22
1984-85	152.00	147.40

(d) The average pithead prices of coal during the last three years is as under:

Date of revision	Average pit-head price of coal (Rs. per tonne)	
	CIL	SCCL
27-5-1982	145.90	154.75
6-1-1984	183.00	192.00
9-1-1986	210.00	219.00

Demand for LPG Cylinders in West Bengal

1504. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for LPG cylinders in West Bengal is much more than the production of cylinders in the state;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the states are having less demand for LPG cylinders but were given more production licences thus creating a regional imbalances of the item;

(c) whether because of this imbalances the consumer of West Bengal has to pay a lot more than other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, whether efforts to narrow down the imbalance will be made by allowing production licences to existing facilities which are lying idle in that state, if so, by what time and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) There is no shortage of cylinders for supply of LPG in West Bengal.

(b) Units for manufacture of LPG cylinders do not require a licence under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and need only registration with DGTD| State Directorates of Industries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Recession in demand of capital goods

1505. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recession in the demand of capital goods and consumer durations forcing the industrial units in the country to slow down their production tempo;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give any relief to the industry by reducing interest rate on bank credits to revive the industry; and

(c) if so, the decision, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The trends of production achieved by the capital goods sector during the period April-November, '85 indicate a mixed pattern of gorwth. The major inductries which have recorded growth in production during this period include Cement Machinery (61 per cent); Boilers (23 per cent); Metallurgical Machinery (38 per cent); and Road Rollers (163 per cent). However, some of the industries have suffered decline in production during this period; such as Mining Machinery (-20 per cent); Chemical and Pharmaceutical Machinery (-3 per cent); and Railway Wagons (-45 per cent) which is partly attributed to lack of orders. In the consumer durable sector, demand constraint seems to have affected the Bicycle industry; this is considered to be a temporary phase.

(b) and (c) At present there is no proposal under consideration.

Licences to manufacturing companies

1506. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many licences have beeⁿ issued so far to car manufacturing companies with details of collaborations; and

(b) how many industrial licences have been issued to scooter/moped companies with foreign collaboration and whether Government keeps a watch on their performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHA-